

App. No. 10/523,853
Office Action Dated March 3, 2006

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IN THE CLAIMS

AUG 03 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claim 1 is amended.

Claims 2-18 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 19-22 are added.

Listing of Claims:

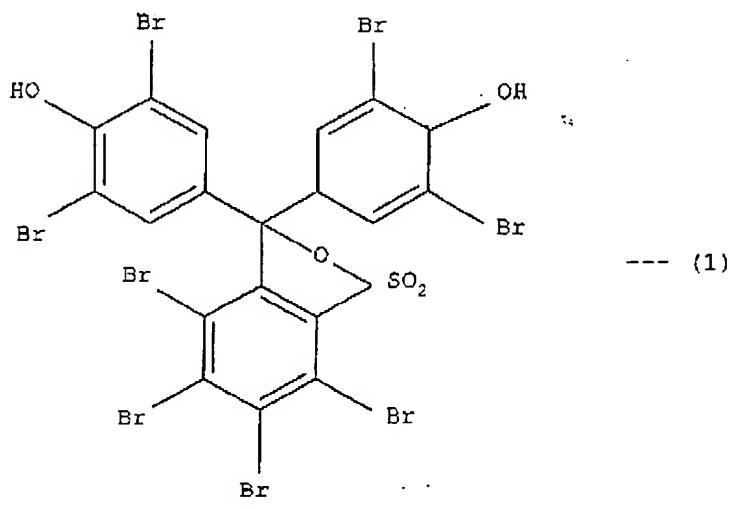
1. (Currently Amended) A test piece for protein assay, said test piece used for quantifying or semi-quantifying a protein and containing ~~an~~ a single acidic pH indicator,

wherein said test piece contains a cationic surfactant as a sensitizer for increasing coloration sensitivity of the acidic indicator with respect to the protein[[.]];

wherein the cationic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of benzyltrimethylammonium bromide, hexadecyltrimethylammonium bromide, lauryltrimethylammonium bromide, and zephiramine; and

wherein the acidic indicator is tetrabromophenol blue expressed by the following

Chemical Formula (1).



2-18. (Canceled)

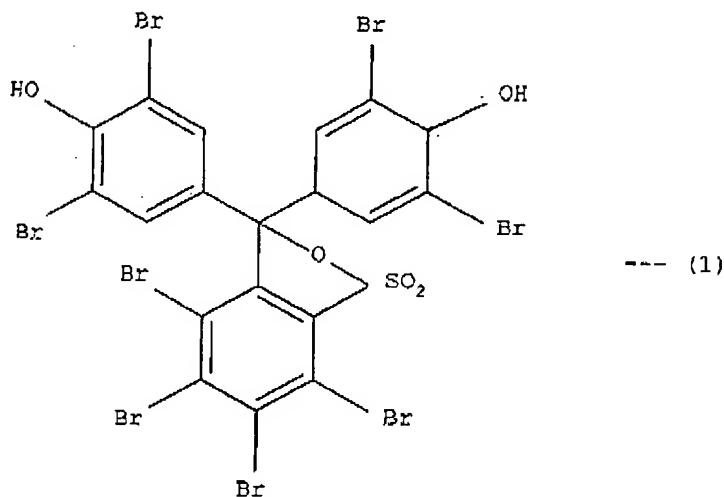
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19. (New) A test piece for protein assay, said test piece used for quantifying or semi-quantifying a protein and containing a single acidic indicator,

wherein said test piece contains a nonionic surfactant as a sensitizer for increasing coloration sensitivity of the acidic indicator with respect to the protein;

wherein the nonionic surfactant is polyethylene glycol; and

wherein the acidic indicator is tetrabromophenol blue expressed by the following Chemical Formula (1).



20. (New) A test piece for protein assay, said test piece used for quantifying or semi-quantifying a protein and containing a single acidic indicator,

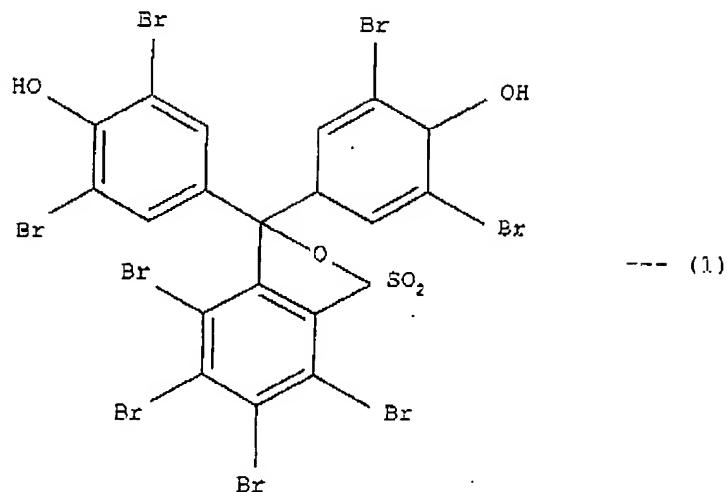
wherein said test piece contains a combination of a cationic surfactant and a nonionic surfactant as a sensitizer for increasing coloration sensitivity of the acidic indicator with respect to the protein;

wherein the cationic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of benzyltrimethylammonium bromide, hexadecyltrimethylammonium bromide, lauryltrimethylammonium bromide, and zephiramine;

wherein the nonionic surfactant is polyethylene glycol; and

wherein the acidic indicator is tetrabromophenol blue expressed by the following Chemical Formula (1).

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--- (1)

21. (New) The test piece for protein assay according to Claim 20, wherein the cationic surfactant is benzyltrimethylammonium bromide.

22. (New) The test piece for protein assay according to Claim 20, wherein the cationic surfactant is zephiramine.